

Message Text

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41

ACTION FDRE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

DODE-00 L-03 DHA-02 ORM-01 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /079 W

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O R 081806Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4554

INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5960

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, PO, AO

SUBJECT: AIRLIFT OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES

REF: A) STATE 238658

B) LUANDA 1508

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH MAJOR SOARES OF GOP AIRLIFT COORDINATOR'S OFFICE, HE STATED THAT 23,500 REFUGEES WERE NOW BEING TRANSPORTED PER WEEK FROM ANGOLA TO PORTUGAL, AND AT THIS RATE 105,000 WOULD BE TRANSPORTED DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER. IN THE ABSENCE OF A U.S. RESPONSE, THEY HAVE OBTAINED A 747 FROM WEST GERMANY (TO REPLACE A 707) AND ARE NEGOTIATING CONTRACTS FOR OTHER FLIGHTS. WITH THE CONTINUOUS OPERATION OF ALL PLANES AT MAXIMUM CAPACITY, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES NOW AWAITING TRANSPORTATION TO PORTUGAL COULD IDEALLY BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 31. HOWEVER, HE STATED THERE WAS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE HITCHES AND THE 11 DAYS OF NOVEMBER PRIOR TO ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE PROVIDED AN ESSENTIAL BUFFER.

2. WHILE THE GOP HAD TO GIVE FIRST ATTENTION TO THE TRANSPORTATION OF REFUGEES, ITS INABILITY TO TRANSPORT CARGO AND PERSONAL EFFECTS LEFT THE REFUGEES ON THEIR ARRIVAL HERE IN A MORE DESPERATE STATE THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE THE CASE CREATING AN ADDITIONAL STRAIN ON IARN'S RESOURCES.

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3. THEREFORE, THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL U.S. CAPACITY FOR THE

TRANSPORTATION OF REFUGUEES WOULD ENABLE ONE OR TWO TAP PLANES NOW
TRANSPORTING REFUGEES TO TRANSPORT THEIR PERSONAL EFFECTS
WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE TO BE ABANDONED IN ANGOLA. HE
THEREFORE URGED THAT U.S. CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD ON GOP'S
PREVIOUS REQUEST FOR MORE PLANES.

4. WHILE THERE MAY BE SOME CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY WITH RESPECT
TO LOGISTICS AS REPORTED REFTTEL (B), I BELIEVE WE SHOULD STILL
ANNOUNCE A DOUBLING OF U.S. AIRLIFT ON THE CONDITION, OF COURSE,
THAT FUEL AND ESSENTIAL LOGISTICAL SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE.
CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

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